

November 5, 2007

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

I am writing to express my support for federal legislation that would prohibit firearm dealers from manufacturing, importing or transferring certain pistols that are not capable of micro-stamping ammunition.

Here in Boston, we are working hard to identify every tool and resource available to use in our fight against gun violence. Micro-stamping will clearly define where illegal guns are coming from and will allow us to be more effective in our efforts to shut down illegal gun dealers.

There were 636 shootings in Boston during 2006 where shell casings were recovered, without guns. Nearly half of the cases handled by the Department would have benefited from micro-stamping and assisted us in identifying where these guns are coming from, so that we can better intervene.

Reducing gun violence is the top priority of my administration. We have made great strides in reducing overall Part 1 crime. The overall number of shootings so far in 2007 is on track to be less than 2006. However, gun violence is still a significant issue – it drives fear, community distrust, and disengagement from civic life. I fully support this legislation, as well as other attempts to help law enforcement find out “Where Did the Gun Come From?”

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to the safety and well being of citizens of Boston and the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Davis
Police Commissioner